

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ID NL

SUBJ: DUTCH MP'S COMMENTS ON INDONESIAN POLITICAL
PRISONER POLICY

REF: JAKARTA 11271

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN SUMMARY: DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIAN DR. A. VONDELLING,
WHO RECENTLY LED DELEGATION OF DUTCH MP'S ON VISIT TO
INDONESIA (REFTEL), REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED GOI RATIONALE
FOR POLITICAL PRISONER POLICY TO DUTCH PRESS ON DELEGA-
TION'S RETURN TO NETHERLANDS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT
DETENTION OF PRISONERS WITHOUT TRIAL DIFFICULT FOR DUTCH
TO UNDERSTAND. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE IN OFFICIAL GOI ANTARA SEP 24,
BASED ON DUTCH PRESS REPORTS, VONDELLING TOLD JOURNALISTS
IN HOMECOMING PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES
HELD FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI OFFICIALS ON POLITICAL
DETAINEES DURING THEIR EIGHT-DAY VISIT AND RECEIVED
IMPRESSION THAT GOI ALSO WANTED TO SOLVE PROBLEM SOON.

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2. VONDELLING EXPLAINED THAT INDONESIA BELIEVES IT CANNOT AFFORD TO RELEASE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PKI DETAINEES NOW, AS THIS WOULD HAMPER ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND THREATEN STABILITY AND NATIONAL UNITY.

3. HE POINTED OUT THAT INDONESIAN LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DUTCH ASSESSMENTS ON POLITICAL DETAINEES SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON DUTCH STANDARDS. HE ADDED THAT HE SUPPORTED INDONESIA'S REASONING THAT A NATION MUST DEFEND ITSELF FROM ELEMENTS WHICH TURN OUT TO THREATEN TO TOPPLE IT BY REVOLUTIONARY MEANS.

4. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR DUTCH TO UNDERSTAND THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SHOULD REMAIN UNDER DETENTION WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO STAND TRIAL. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: VONDELLING'S REMARKS, WHICH DUTCH EMBOFF HAS ADVISED US WERE CORRECTLY REPORTED IN ANTARA, SUGGEST GOI WAS REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN PRESENTING INTERNAL SECURITY RATIONALE BEHIND PRISONER POLICY TO THE DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS.
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